



Edition 2
September
2025

ENGLISH

Curriculum Newsletter

YEAR 8

Contact



Emma Geeson
WPT English Subject
Director
egeeson@wickersley.net



Curriculum Intent

At Wickersley Partnership Trust, we understand that getting the curriculum right for each and every individual student is the single most important factor in ensuring progress, encouraging positive engagement and raising aspirations.

At Wickersley Partnership Trust, we want all students to leave able and qualified to play their full part in an ever-changing world through an ambitious, creative and innovative curriculum, which empowers students with the skills, knowledge and attributes to allow them to succeed in their next phase of education and their working life.

Our curriculum is not driven by performance tables. It is our belief that a strong, broad, balanced curriculum, tailored to individual needs can remove barriers to learning and allow all students to access the curriculum appropriate to them and will therefore meet their individual needs.

At WPT, we believe that English should be more than just teaching to an exam. As a core subject, we realise the importance of the fundamental skills that English can offer our students as they learn to articulate their thoughts and ideas on important topics, through a breadth of reading, the written word and their spoken word.

Year 8 Curriculum

Throughout the English curriculum, we use three key drivers to support our students through the learning of our texts. These encourage students to see the wider links across literature and are important concepts in understanding the main ideas of our texts. These key drivers are: identity, relationships and power. Click on the topics below for more information!

Power

Y8 students study the novella 'Animal Farm' and consider the misuse of power and political systems. Students are taught the concept of a tyrannical leader and about the purpose of an allegory. Students will consider the writer's purpose and explain the ideas of the writer. Students will also build on the transactional persuasive writing skills from Y7 to create speeches about important topics in modern society.

Identity

Y8 students study an anthology of poems based around the concept of identity. Students are taught a range of poetic conventions, including ideas about voice in poem. Students will also take part in a Trust-wide poetry writing competition in which some lucky winners will be invited to the WPT poetry event in March.

Relationships

Y8 students finish the year by reading the play 'Noughts and Crosses' and consider how identity plays an important role in our society. Students learn about the conventions of a modern play and how characterisation develops across a play.

Assessment Points

In Year 8, students are assessed each half term in class against the English can-do statements for reading and writing skills. Reading skills include: inference, using evidence, explaining the impact of methods and explaining the impact of character. Writing skills include: writing for purpose and audience, using creative language and methods, organisation of writing and technical accuracy. This then generates a grade which is either working towards entry level, entry level, working towards expected, expected, working towards greater depth and greater depth.

Immerse Yourself

BBC Bitesize Animal Farm

- ✓ Develop Skills
- ✓ Study Support
- ✓ English Revision at home

BBC Bitesize Poetry

- ✓ Get Revising Quicker!
- ✓ Videos, Links and Quizzes
- ✓ Study Support and Revision

BBC Bitesize helps to support the students revision outside of school.

If they are struggling with topics in lessons or want to enhance their learning in the classroom then these links are an ideal place to cover content at home.

Test Your Knowledge with Digital Theatre Plus...

Digital Theatre Plus is a fantastic way to study English topics to help you with your studies. Click on the icon below for more information!



Praise and Reward

Our rewards system can be broadly split into four categories: classroom level, subject level, school level and privilege rewards. We'll focus on classroom and subject rewards here - for more information about our rewards schemes, please see our website.

CLASSROOM LEVEL REWARDS

Awarded for: working hard, taking risks and rising to a challenge, making mistakes and learning from them, helping others, and taking pride in the school community.

Rewarded by: praise postcards, positive phone calls to parents/carers, positive text messages home, and lesson-based prizes.

SUBJECT LEVEL REWARDS

Reward scheme: Star of the Week, curriculum awards (Subject/School Way, participation, working with pride, embracing the whole curriculum), high flyer, extra mile, most improved.

Rewarded by: names displayed on reward boards, certificates, social media posts.

Broadening Horizons

As part of expanding students' knowledge on key topics, English teachers will set project-based Broadening Horizons homework tasks.

A variety of tasks are set which include, but aren't limited to, research tasks, creative writing, competitions and making things.

This term, students will create their own speeches and design their own farm utopia.

BBC Bitesize Non-fiction Writing

There are a range of resources on BBC Bitesize to get you ahead in your non-fiction writing. There are links to help you plan and draft, all the way to building the finished piece. Click on the logo for more information!



Careers

Students have been encouraged to think about careers that are intrinsically linked to the skills taught in English lessons, such as lawyers, journalists, advertisers, climate campaigners and how different jobs use different styles of language.

English Careers lessons are in September. Each element of the careers lesson links to an aspect of the English Way and represents the importance of students becoming subject specialists in order to take their place in the wider world.

Our Y8 students considered the importance of drafting and redrafting, and have considered their role of editors and communications experts, redrafting a job advert for a 'happiness manager' after exploring the redraft of a Tesco advert to contain inclusion, diversity and the requirements of the hiring manager. Click on the logo below to read about a career route relevant to these skills!



The English Way

The English Way enables us to develop well-rounded individuals ready for the next stage of life after school. It is about embedding employability skills such as resilience, collaboration, communication, aspiration, responsibility, tolerance and respect in order for them to be an active participant in the local community and beyond.

THE ENGLISH WAY

We are imaginative and ambitious writers

We communicate our ideas & listen to the ideas of others

We can scan text to quickly gain an overview

We plan, proofread and edit our writing carefully

We strive to be an expert in characters and themes

We express our ideas in a thoughtful and respectful way

We read for pleasure & explore new texts

We adapt our writing style to meet the purpose

We explore texts carefully & search for meanings and ideas

We consider the techniques writers have used & the effect they have on the reader

We use sophisticated vocabulary in our writing

WICKERLEY PARTNERSHIP TRUST

SUBJECT WAYS

Have your say! ✨

At WPT we're always looking for feedback. If you have any thoughts/opinions on this Curriculum Newsletter, its content or the curriculum in general, please click on the title to fill out a short feedback form.